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President Powell said that in consequence of the infinite variety of possible sounds, it was impossible to classify them except by types. No two persons speak alike ; no two voices are alike ; and instrumental tests have shown that the same person cannot pronounce the same vowel twice in precisely the same way. Prof. Bell had frequently demonstrated this by means of the telephone. The effect on the instrument was different with each attempt, and having made a sound once he found that he could never exactly repeat it. The passage of a vibration of air through the complex mechanism of the human voice is so heterogeneous in its character that it is impossible for two men to utter precisely the same sound. Two sounds thus made may be very nearly but cannot be exactly the same.

In the course of his work during several years past, in endeavoring to devise an alphabet with which to write the sounds embraced in various Indian languages, he had come to the conclusion that he could not describe sounds by describing the way in which they are made ; that, in the present state of the science of phonology, it was only possible to compare them with those by which they would be recognized. He could only describe the way in which something like the sound is made. He therefore thought that a common system of pronunciation for all languages was a physical impossibility.

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FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING, June 21, 1881.

Prof. G. Brown Goode read a paper entitled THE FISHERMEN OF THE UNITED STATES. The following is an abstract :

For every man engaged in the fisheries there is at least one other man who is dependent to a considerable extent upon his labors for support. To the class of "shoresmen" belong (1) the capitalists who furnish supplies and apparatus for the use of the active fishermen ; (2) the shopkeepers from whom they purchase provisions and clothing ; and (3) the skilled laborers who manufacture

for them articles of apparel, shelter, and the apparatus of the trade. In addition to the professional fishermen, there is a large class of men who have been called "semi-professional" fishermen—men who derive from the fisheries less than half of their entire income. Taking into account all those persons who are directly employed in the fisheries for a larger or smaller portion of the year, those who are dependent upon fishermen in a commercial way for support, and the members of their families who are actually dependent upon their labors, it cannot be far out of the way to estimate the total number of persons dependent on the fisheries at from 800,000 to 1,000,000.

The total value of the product, *to the producers*, of the fisheries of the United States has not yet been definitely determined ; but it will doubtless prove to be somewhere near forty-five millions of dollars. The value of the product, when it reaches the consumer is at least \$250,000,000. Of the thirty-one States and Territories whose citizens are engaged in the fishery industry, seventeen have more than a thousand professional fishermen. The most important of these States is, of course, Massachusetts, with from eighteen to twenty-five thousand men. Second stands Maine, with ten to twelve thousand, unless indeed the 16,000 oystermen of Virginia and the 15,000 of Maryland are allowed to swell the totals for those States. Maine, however, stands second so far as the fisheries proper are concerned. Third comes New York with about 5,000 men, then New Jersey with 4,000, North Carolina with 3,500, Oregon with its horde of salmon fishermen, 2,500 in number, Florida with 2,100, Connecticut and California with about 2,000 each, Michigan with 1,781, Wisconsin with 800, Georgia with 1,400, Ohio with 1,046, Delaware, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, each with about 1,000, New Hampshire, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas with about 400 each, and Mississippi with only 60.

The majority of our fishermen are native-born citizens of the United States, although in certain localities there are extensive

communities of foreigners. Most numerous of these are the natives of the British provinces, of whom there are at least 4,000 employed in the fisheries of New England. There are, probably, not less than 2,000 Portuguese, chiefly the natives of the Azores and of the Cape Verd Islands. Very many of the Portuguese have brought their families with them, and have built up extensive communities in the towns whence they sail upon their fishing voyages. There are also about 1,000 Scandinavians, 1,000 or more of Irish and English birth, a considerable number of French, Italians, Austrians, Minorcans, Slavs, Greeks, Spaniards, and Germans. In the whaling fleet may be found Lascars, Malays, and a larger number of Kanakas, or natives of the various South Sea Islands. In the whale fishery of Southern New England, a considerable number of men of partial Indian descent may be found, and in the fisheries of the Great Lakes—especially those of Lake Superior and the vicinity of Mackinaw—Indians and Indian half-breeds are employed.

The salmon and other fisheries of Puget Sound are prosecuted chiefly by the aid of Indian fishermen. In Alaska, where the population depends almost entirely upon the fisheries for support, the head of every family is a professional fisherman, and, upon a very low estimate, one-fourth of the inhabitants of Alaska should be considered as fishermen. Few of them catch fish for the use of others than their own immediate dependents. Only one Chinaman has, as yet, enrolled himself among the fishermen of the Atlantic coast, but in California and Oregon there are about 4,000 of these men, all of whom, excepting about 300, are employed as factory hands in the salmon canneries of the Sacramento and Columbia basins. The 300 who have the right to be classed among the actual fishermen, live for the most part in California, and the product of their industry is, to a very great extent, exported to China; although they supply the local demands of their countrymen resident on the Pacific coast.

The negro element in the fishing population is somewhat extensive. We have no means of ascertaining how many of this race

are included among the native born Americans returned by the census reporters. The shad fisheries of the South are prosecuted chiefly by the use of negro muscle, and probably not less than four or five thousand of these men are employed during the shad and herring season in setting and hauling the seines. The only locality where negroes participate to a large extent in the shore fisheries is Key West, Fla., where the natives of the Bahamas—both negro and white—are considered among the most skillful of the sponge and market fishermen. Negroes are rarely found, however, upon the sea-going fishing vessels of the North. There is not a single negro among the 5,000 fishermen of Gloucester, and their absence on the other fishing vessels of New England is no less noteworthy. There is, however, a considerable sprinkling of negroes among the crews of the whaling vessels of Provincetown and New Bedford, the latter alone reporting over 200. These men are, for the most part, natives of the West India Islands, such as Jamaica and St. Croix, where the American whalers engaging in the Atlantic fishery are accustomed to make harbor for recruiting and enrolling their crews. As a counterpart of the solitary Chinaman engaged in the Atlantic fisheries we hear of a solitary negro on the Pacific coast, a lone fisherman, who sits on the wharf at New Tacoma, Washington Territory, and fishes to supply the local market.

The number of foreign fishermen in the United States, excluding 5,000 negroes, and 8,000 Indians and Esquimaux, who are considered to be native-born citizens, probably does not exceed 10 to 12 per cent. of the total number, as is indicated by the figures which have already been given. Considerably more than one-half of the fishing population of the United States belongs to the Atlantic coast north of the capes of Delaware; of this number at least four-fifths are of English descent. They are by far the most interesting of our fishermen, since to their number belong the 20,000 or more men who may properly be designated the "sailor fishermen" of the United States,—the crews of the trim and enterprising vessels of the sea-going fishing fleet which ought to be the chief pride of

the American marine, and which is of such importance to our country as a training school for mariners, and as a medium through which one of the most valuable food resources of the continent is made available.

Prof. Goode referred to the mental and physical traits of the New England fishermen, their enterprise as shown in their readiness to adopt improved methods, their intelligence and public spirit. He spoke also of the education of the young fishermen, and the injury to good seamanship resulting from the custom of deferring the shipment of boys who formerly entered the business at the age of ten or twelve but who now remain on shore until they are fifteen or sixteen, and have had their perceptive faculties dulled by school training. Reference was made to the morality of the fishermen, the strict observance of the Sabbath to be met with among large classes of them, and the entire absence of ardent spirits on the fishing vessels. The character of their favorite books and newspapers, their amusements, their dialect and their superstitions were discussed. The chief diseases were noted to be dyspepsia and rheumatism. They are, as a rule, long lived, though the fishing population of large ports like Gloucester is decimated by disaster every year or two. The financial profits vary from \$1,000 to \$100 a year for each man, though sometimes a year's work results solely in an embarrassing burden of debts.

Prof. Mason expressed surprise at the statement made in the paper that the quality of American fishermen was deteriorating, in consequence of the superior educational facilities now enjoyed by the people. Prof. Goode accounted for it by the fact that education tended to deter bright boys from engaging in the business. The paper was further discussed by Dr. Morgan and others.

The second paper was by Major A. M. Hancock, of Maryland, on PREHISTORIC DISCOVERIES IN THE SOUTH OF SPAIN, where he was, for nearly seventeen years, United States consul.

The paper was delivered extemporaneously and illustrated by

maps, charts, and specimens. From a stenographic report the following abstract of the paper has been prepared :

The speaker described certain remarkable prehistoric remains which had been discovered while he was President of the *Pre-historic Society of the South of Spain*.

The first of these were found in a cave which was called the "Cave of the Bats," situated in the neighborhood of Albuñal, between Malaga and Almeria. It is called by that name because when first discovered it was literally filled with bat-guano. This was cleared away, and within were found, first, three skeletons in a sitting posture, the center one of which, that of a woman, having still remaining upon her skull a crown, weighing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of pure gold, 24 carats fine. She also had on, at the time of her death, a tunic, made of the well known esparto grass, very finely made. The other two were dressed pretty much the same, except that the tunics were made of coarser but sound material.

Farther in were found three more skeletons, one of which had the skull crushed between two stones, indicating, as he supposed, that the man had been executed. Beside him was found an esparto bag containing food carbonized by the atmosphere, and another containing hatchets and arrow-heads, specimens of which were exhibited, and of which he was supposed to be a maker.

At another point in this cave were found twelve skeletons arranged in a semi-circle, one of which occupying a central position was that of a woman having on a hide tunic laced up under the left arm. Each of these skeletons was in a fair state of preservation when found, but on exposure to the air they crumbled to dust.

Still farther internally fifty skeletons were found together, whose character and surroundings indicated that they were warriors. Lying all about them were many stone arrow-heads.

The speaker next described a stone temple, as he called it, being in the nature of an enormous dolmen, or cromlech, situated on the outskirts of the city of Antequera, and known as La Cueva de Mengal.

It is built on an artificial mound, of which there are two others. The structure described is 90 feet long, 14 feet wide at its western end, 18 feet in the center, and at the beginning of the vestibule about 7 feet wide, and about 10 feet high. The five covering stones weigh 450 tons. From the western end to the entrance of the vestibule it is 59 feet, and the vestibule is 31 feet in length.

Immediately in front of this temple is a mountain, called La Peña de los Enamorados, presenting at its summit a perfect figure of the human profile. As all other prehistoric caves of which he had any knowledge faced directly east, his theory of this was that it was not intended as a burial mound, as some supposed, but as a temple of worship, the officiating priest having La Peña de los Enamorados directly in his view.

The stone that covers the western end was estimated to weigh 160 tons. The nearest point from which these huge stones could have been obtained was 18 miles distant, with two rivers intervening.

The speaker also described a plain in the vicinity of Antequera, which is strewn with oyster shells. This plain or basin is about 1,900 hundred feet above the level of the sea. It would seem to have once been inhabited by prehistoric man who lived principally upon oysters and left their shells scattered over the ground.

At the close of his remarks Major Hancock presented the Society with a copy of a work descriptive of these and other archæological remains in the south of Spain entitled *Antiquedades Prehistoricas de Andalucia*, etc., Por Don Manuel de Góngora y Martinez. Madrid, 1868; 4to., pp. 158, with 149 figures, plates, and map; also two charts illustrating the profile and form of a dolmen described by Major Hancock, in which were found numerous human and other remains. These were accompanied by two worked flints from the cave and portion of a fossil oyster shell found on the surface of the plain, the latter appearing to consist chiefly of such shells, and having a height of 1,900 feet above sea level.